

Clifton Vale

February 16th
1846

My dear Sir

Mr Armstrongs many engagements just at this moment so fully occupy him that he is unable to write by this post to America, and as I am particularly anxious for an early reply to a question respecting the plans of the friends of the Anti Slavery Cause here, I think you will kindly accept my apologies for troubling you now instead of waiting until he is able to write.

After the general meeting held in Bristol on the subject of Slavery last Autumn, of which, I suppose you saw the notice in the Inquirer, I was requested to join the Ladies Anti Slavery Committee here; which since the emancipation in our own West Indian Islands, had been rather a nominal than an active body - and as I have means of knowing the true position of the American Abolitionists which the other ladies do not possess in the same degree, I thought I might possibly be some little use to the cause

James Armstrong

MS. B. 1.6 v. 3, p. 10

by doing so;— and I have endeavoured— both
by explaining the views of your Society more fully,
and putting in circulation among the ladies of
the Committee one or two books on American
Slavery, to increase their interest in your present
position. There is some prejudice against the
Garrison party— but, so far as I was able to collect
at our last Committee meeting, founded very much
on mistaken notions of their views;— and I so far
amused them— that I hope we shall have contri-
butions for your Christmas fair this year— from
many who have fancied hitherto,— that they would
do rather harm than good by strengthening the
hands of that portion of your country men.

The great object at which the London Central
Society seem now to be aiming both as regards
North and South America, is the disuse of
all slave grown produce; and specimens of cotton
goods manufactured from the free grown raw material
have been shewn, which do not seem at all
inferior to that grown in your Southern States.
It will take some time however to have a supply
which would make any sensible difference in the
cotton market; and May is the earliest time
at which we are led to expect there will be any
at all in the shops. Then we are requested to
exert all our influence to bring it into general

use - before I do so I should be very anxious to know what is your opinion on the subject; you must understand how such a plan would affect your slave states, far better than we can do; here, and where I see so much misapprehension of the whole question as regards America, as I do here, I can hardly adopt the scheme proposed without making inquiries of you as to its usefulness.

Our committee meets next the first week in May, and any suggestions you can favour me with by that time, I should

be very glad to lay before it.

Mr. Armstrong begs I will thank you for your last very interesting letter to him. You have probably read the reply by the "Lover of Justice" to those parts of it which were sent to the Inquirer. Have you any thought of sending a letter to the Editor for insertion - with your name to it? I wish you would -

We are looking forward with great interest to a visit from Frederick Douglass. next month; he seems to be creating a great sensation wherever he appears. I should think he will hardly be able to return to America with any comfort, as the

The perfect absence of prejudice against colour here
indeed the interest his colour has excited, would
make the return even to New England, painful to
him -

I think we may congrat-
ulate ourselves on the failure of our crops last
year, and securing our peaceful relations with

239,000 bales,
Cotton from India

Free Cotton from
Mississippi (?)

Only one
cause of opposing
any (as I address
of Gung, Sturge,
Thomson, & others admit)

Feb 6 1846
The Post Office
Liverpool
Massachusetts
United States
Am? by ship
April 1st

to believe me
very truly and
respectfully yours
James Buchanan

America - In how many ways is that calamity
working for good - The speedy termination of
our own laws - & other restrictions in trade must
put an end to war among all civilized countries,
and hasten the day when nations shall
acknowledge that "all men are brethren" -

Again apologising for troubling you, & beg you